

**Aug  
2025**

# St. John's News

**Read all  
About it**

**Come worship with us:**

**Wednesdays at 6:00pm  
Sundays at 9:00am**

## **Important dates this month:**

Vacation Bible School ~ August 4-7

Twins game ~ August 14th

## **Staff:**

**Pastor:**

**Sherri Otto**

**Office:**

**Amanda Schultz**

**Accounting:**

**Monica Braesch**

**Custodian:**

**Hanna Tharaldson**

**Choir Director:**

**Allison Vandermark**

**Organist:**

**Eileen Hanlon**

## **Table of contents:**

Council minutes	2-3
From the office	4-5
Sunday service helpers	6
Financial corner	7

148 S Chestnut St. Belle Plaine MN 56011  
Church office: 952-873-6492  
email: [office@stjohnbelleplaine.org](mailto:office@stjohnbelleplaine.org)

**please contact the office to continue receiving the newsletter**

Unapproved St. John Lutheran Church Council Minutes

July 8th, 2025

President Jim Eggers called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Pastor Sherri led us in a devotion on encouragement; encouragement and support of one another builds a strong foundation and helps up to focus on our greater mission to honor God and benefit the St. John Congregation.

**Present:**

X	Pastor Sherri Otto	X	Jim Eggers	X	Albert Koepp	X	Deanne Fogarty	X	Amy Franck
X	David Bungarden	X	Jan Effinger		Chris Zellman		Steve Kelm	X	Jerold Stauffacher
X	Tim Moonen	X	Rob Schultz	X	Jaime Petersen				

**Approval of Minutes & Agenda:**

Council reviewed the minutes from the June 10th ,2025 Council Meeting. Motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the meeting minutes.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the current agenda for July 8th, 2025.

**Staff Report:**

**A.** Amanda's office report was reviewed by members of the council; she continues to support all aspects of the church and we appreciate all that she does.

**B.** Pastor Sherri discussed her first few weeks with us. When she isn't working on music or leading worship services, she has been busy learning all things about St. John; meeting with the congregation, our committees, and sending off the mission trip and confirmation group. Please stop by and introduce yourself to Pastor Sherri if you haven't yet.

**Treasurer's Report:**

**A.** Jerold's treasurer report was reviewed by the council. For the month of June, offering revenue was short \$533 and overall revenue was down \$1,475 for the month; for the year we are \$1,880 ahead of budgeted revenues. Expenses for the month were below the budgeted amount by \$8,847. The expense for this year is currently \$22,625 lower than last years expenses.

**B.** Balances in accounts as of July 4th are as follows:

- a. Ameriprise Account (Stier) balance: \$116,201.92
- b. Property Improvement (Savings) balance: \$138,422.60
- c. Technology Fund balance: \$1,107.05
- d. Foundation Account (Interest from Foundation Investment) balance: \$31,211.90
- e. General Fund balance: \$12,473.94
- f. Youth Account balance: \$24,710.77
- g. Building Fund Checkbook balance: \$3,825.98
- h. Memorial Fund balance: \$19,456.74
- i. Jackson Account (Larry Kiewel) balance: \$72,182
- j. St. John Foundation Investment balance: \$175,961

**C.** After reviewing the balances in each account, the council made a motion, seconded and carried to pay for the Camp Onomia expense using the Foundation Interest account instead of the General Fund.

**D.** The council reviewed the details of the Memorial Fund and noted that the memorial envelopes offer too many choices and may be confusing to donors. The council made a motion, seconded and carried to change the memorial envelopes to 3 choices: General Fund, Memorial Fund, and Other. The council also made a motion, seconded and carried to disburse memorial funds to committees as needed with the exception of use by the General Fund.

**Transfers:**

A. No transfers this month.

### **Ongoing Business:**

A. The MN Twins Game is a go! As of the council meeting, there was still plenty of room left for more people. A communication is in the bulletin for signup!

B. A motion was made, seconded and carried for the fall worship schedule as follows:

#### **Sunday Morning:**

8:00 am: Worship Service

9:00am – 9:30am Coffee Time

9:30 am: Worship Service and Sunday School\*

\*Sunday School will begin in the sanctuary with dismissal to Sunday School after the children's message.

#### **Wednesday Evening:**

6:00pm: Confirmation and Connect Class (dismissal to small groups at 6:30pm)

6:30pm: Wednesday Worship Service (no students\*)

7:00pm: Choir Practice

\*Connect and Confirmation Students will remain in the Sanctuary the last Wednesday of the month for Worship.

C. BBQ Days Parade: Donations are coming in for candy and decorations. The Schultz family is planning to work on the parade float on July 17th and everyone is welcome to help. A Motion was made, seconded and carried to spend up to \$500 for any additional decorations or candy needed to make the parade a success.

D. St. John is due for an updated Church Directory and a fall timeline has been proposed.

Amanda and Pastor Sherri are currently working with a company to ensure it's a good fit for our congregation before proceeding.

E. Accompanist Update: Our Personnel committee has found an accompanist for the choir and our Wednesday evening service.

### **New Business:**

A. On behalf of the Women's Group, Sandy Schultz sought council approval to replace the existing table in the kitchen (nearest the dishwasher) with a sturdy, stainless steel table. The council approved their request. She also informed council they are having difficulty planning the ice cream social. They have proposed a Polka Service in the spring with a meal following the service. Council was in favor of this suggestion as well and they will begin planning. Thank you, ladies!

B. Technology: We need more trained volunteers to assist with technology during the service, particularly recording and live streaming. Several members of the council are interested in being trained on this in hopes of having live streaming every Sunday. Tim Moonen is also looking into new hearing assisted headphones as the current ones have been experiencing many issues lately. He will get a few additional quotes and we'll review once we have more information.

C. 19 confirmation students went to Camp Onomia for iBelong camp this year. Their week included morning and evening worship, afternoon bible studies, recreation activities, crafts and camp games. The kids enjoyed themselves and many were still singing songs on the bus ride home. Council reviewed the costs and distance of Camp Onomia and heard from Pastor Sherri of her experiences with different options. After discussion, the council made a motion, seconded and carried to discontinue our relationship with Camp Onomia and look into other options to continue to invigorate our youth program.

D. Pastor and Amanda are looking into better options for our Church Communications; they'll do some research and let us know if there is anything needed from the council.

E. July 28 th All Committee Meeting is planned for 7pm. Like our previous meeting, we hope to have representatives from every committee to discuss where groups can/should work together and discuss Rally Sunday.

### **Ministry Team Updates:**

A. The Building and Grounds Committee continues their work on the parking lot project and is currently working on the consolidation of the 3 existing lots into 1 lot, a requirement that was previously discussed February's Property Improvement meeting.

A Motion was made, seconded, and carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 p.m. Meeting was adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deanne Fogarty, Secretary

## Jeremiah 29:11

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*

As I write this, it's hard to believe that August is already here—and that I've had the joy of serving as your pastor for a month and a half! So many good things are happening here at St. John, and I feel truly privileged to be part of your lives and faith journeys.

I've been dreaming about the future of St. John, and I pray that you've been dreaming too! There are so many possibilities ahead, and I'd like to share a few of mine with you. My hope is that some of these ideas resonate with you—and that you'll be inspired to share your own dreams with me as we embrace these wonderful opportunities.

Below are a few of my hopes and dreams for our future together:

**1. Bible Studies** - to have a weekly Bible study during the day at church and a monthly Bible study in the evening at a local establishment.

**2. Youth Group** - to form a Youth Group where we can have conversations about school, friendships, struggles and successes and how God works through all of it. We would also schedule service projects and fun events.

**3. Grief Group** - connect with those who have lost loved ones, listen to their stories and guide them through this time as a community.

**4. Hospitality Group** - having a dedicated group who would welcome new people in our community, connect others with them and answer any questions they may have.

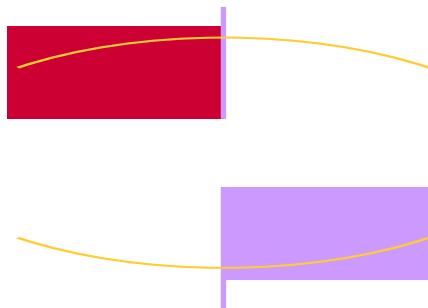
**5. Care Givers Support Group** - meet with a group of people who are caring for their loved ones either during transitional periods or on a permanent basis.

**6. Community Engagement Team** - have a group of people who find the needs of the surrounding community and look for ways that we can serve them.

If any of these dreams bring a smile to your face, I'd love to hear from you and work together to make them a reality. I can't do this alone, but I'm ready to work hard alongside our various volunteers to help enrich the faith and lives of our St. John community.

Thank you for all of your prayers and support this past month. I truly appreciate it, and I look forward to what we can accomplish together in the months and years ahead.

Peace,  
Pastor Sherri



Hey there!

July was great here at St. John's! It is a true joy to have so many of our members stop by the church office for coffee and conversations - the door is always open! We had a great BBQ days parade float ~ and that is because of the generous donations given!! So **THANK YOU** to all who donated their time, talent and treasures to the parade!

August is shaping up to be another busy month with vacation bible school and gearing up for Fall Connect & Confirmation → See below for some important dates regarding our youth! It might look a little different this year, but we are so excited to see what our future holds.

See you Sunday,  
Amanda

## YOUTH

It's hard to believe it, but Fall is right around the corner and the youth ministry team has been hard at work preparing for the upcoming months. We are really looking forward to a great year with our Sunday School and connect/confirmation programs. We are so thankful and blessed to have such a supportive congregation, leading and encouraging our youth!! If you are interested in being a Sunday School teacher or helper- reach out to [youthsjlc@gmail.com](mailto:youthsjlc@gmail.com)

Sunday School Teacher Orientation Tuesday, August 19th @ 6:30pm

Register for Sunday School -



SCAN ME

## For your calendar:

Connect/Confirmation Orientation September 10th @ 6:00pm - if you are interested in helping with our Wednesday nights please contact Amanda in the office!!

Sunday, September 7 **Rally Sunday** - God's Work, Our Hands



Bring in empty shoe boxes for Our Service Project (Operation Christmas Boxes) in November

## ~ AUGUST SUNDAY SERVICE ASSISTANTS~

Alter guild: Bonnie Vinkemeier

August 3rd ~ 9:00am

**Greeters:** Jodi Savage

**Lay Readers:** Bonnie Vinkemeier

**Communion Assistants:** Bonnie Vinkemeier, Brent Koepp, Jodi Savage

**Ushers:** Myron Bratsch, Kirk Franck, Matt Kes, Jeff Eppen,  
Brent Koepp, Mitchell Koepp, Justin Stauffacher, Tim Moonen, Aaron Leonard

August 10th ~ 9:00am

**Greeters:** Susie Steinhagen

**Lay Readers:** Susie Steinhagen

**Communion Assistants:** Susie Steinhagen, Sara Bungarden, Kirk Franck

**Ushers:** James & John Karl, Dan & Wyatt Herrmann, Tim Bristlin  
Chris & Annette Moylan, Steve Schroeder, Lee Sauter, James Fogarty

August 17th ~ 9:00am

**Greeters:** Jamey, Linda & Olivia Jeurissen

**Lay Readers:** Sandi Wolpern

**Communion Assistants:** Sandi Wolpern, Abby Kubes, Mindy Chevalier

**Ushers:** James & John Karl, Dan & Wyatt Herrmann, Tim Bristlin  
Chris & Annette Moylan, Steve Schroeder, Lee Sauter, James Fogarty

August 24th ~ 9:00am

**Greeters:** Ron & Diane Rasmussen

**Lay Readers:** Caren Grotberg

**Communion Assistants:** Dave Bungarden, Rob & Sandy Schultz

**Ushers:** Brian, Jonathan & Jason Schmidt, Dave Latzke, Jerold Stauffacher  
Dave & Sara Bungarden, Mason Bungarden, Ron & Diane Rasmussen

August 31st ~ 9:00am

**Greeters:** Brian & Jonathan Schmidt

**Lay Readers:** Beth Beuch

**Communion Assistants:** Beth Beuch, Albert Koepp, Dave Latzke

**Ushers:** Brian, Jonathan & Jason Schmidt, Dave Latzke, Jerold Stauffacher  
Dave & Sara Bungarden, Mason Bungarden, Ron & Diane Rasmussen



Summer has 'bean' great but coffee hour will resume next month! And we can't wait to see you! It's always a joy to see the gathering area bustling. If you would like to host a date please let the office know.

## St. John Lutheran Church

### All Funds: Statement of Activities Previous Year Comparison

June 1, 2025 - June 30 2025

6/1/2025 - 6/30/2025

6/1/2024 - 6/30/2024

#### Revenues

Total Offering Revenues	30,198.48	24,664.06
Total Other Fund Raising Projects	0.00	50.00
Total Sale of Books & Other Religious Items	0.00	0.00
Total Major Revenues	0.00	50.00
Product Revenues		
Total Product Revenues	0.00	14.85
Total Other Revenue	1,425.00	2,737.50
Total Miscellaneous Revenues	1,425.00	2,737.50
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>31,623.48</b>	<b>27,466.41</b>

Total Cost of Product Sales	1,814.64	195.00
Total Benevolence Expense	10,210.00	1,850.00
Total Church/Grounds Maintenance Expense	2,417.72	32,113.78
Total Insurance	0.00	1,323.81
Total Office Expenses	1,006.45	1,156.29
Other Expenses	104.45	277.59
Total Professional Fees	0.00	1,295.53
Total Staff Benefits	67.04	2,529.19
Total Staff Salaries	8,350.44	15,686.69
Total Utilities	1,615.72	1,043.33
Total Worship Music & Arts Expenses	414.00	169.78
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>24,254.82</b>	<b>58,100.79</b>
<b>Net Revenue</b>	<b>5,554.02</b>	<b>-29,084.81</b>

#### Property Improvement / Building Fund

6/1/2025 - 06/30/2025

6/1/2024 - 6/30/2024

Income (Donations, Rent, Investments)	\$4,902.39	\$6,318.26
Total Expenditures	\$1,950.00	\$79.75
Interest Expense	0	\$466.37

#### Net Receipts / Disbursements

	\$2,952.39	\$5,772.14
<b>Offerings</b>	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Property Improvement</b>
6/1/25 - 6/7/25	\$4,361.78	\$938.88
6/8/25 - 6/14/25	\$3,929.92	\$575.00
6/15/25 - 6/21/25	\$4,604.83	\$1,036.38
6/22/25 - 6/28/25	\$8,174.56	\$449.13
6/29/25 - 6/30/25	\$0.00	\$478.00

*There are many ways to give back, one way is giving back financially.*

To schedule a *recurring electronic contribution* via Vanco:

Visit our website: [www.stjohnbelleplaine.org](http://www.stjohnbelleplaine.org)

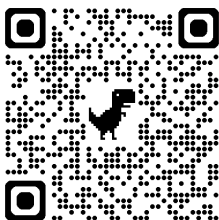
Select the green 'online giving'

Scroll to the bottom and select 'get started today'

Select where you would like the funds allocated

Follow the prompts to set up your account

Or scan the code:



scan to give using venmo:



St. John Lutheran Church  
148 S. Chestnut St.  
Belle Plaine 56011

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit No. 16  
Belle Plaine, MN 56011

Change Service Requested

---

## Attention!!

Heading into Fall, we will be updating our system -- **please contact the office to continue receiving the newsletter** via mail. This can be done in person before or after services OR by contacting the office by phone or email.

---